

DON TAYLOR was a playwright and poet, and a director of theatre, television and radio plays. Within eighteen months of leaving Oxford, he was working as drama director at the BBC, and between 1960 and 1990, he directed nearly a hundred television plays, the first works by David Mercer and Hugh Whitemore, as well as seventeen of his own original TV plays, and a number of large scale classical productions of Shakespeare, Granville Barker, Arthur Miller, Sheridan, Bulgakov and Edward Bond.

He translated and directed for BBC Television the Theban plays of Sophocles - *Oedipus The King*, *Antigone* (dir Polly Findlay, National Theatre, 2012) and *Oedipus at Colonus*. He followed this with translations of three Euripides' War Plays - *Iphigenia at Aulis* (dir. Katie Mitchell, Abbey Theatre, and National Theatre 2004), *The Women of Troy* (dir. Katie Mitchell, National Theatre, 2007/08), and *Helen*.

He continued working in the theatre, directing Sir Anthony Quayle in his last *King Lear* and also in Gogol's *The Government Inspector* for Compass Theatre, of which he was co-director at the time. He also staged several other plays by Shakespeare, as well plays by Shaw, Ibsen and his own work.

In 1996 he and Ellen Dryden set up First Writes Radio, an independent drama company, which continues to produce many original plays and adaptations of classic novels for BBC Radio.

Among Don Taylor's many stage plays are *The Roses of Eyam*, *The Exorcism*, *Daughters of Venice*, *Brotherhood*, *When the Actors Come*, *Retreat from Moscow*, *When the Barbarians Came*, and his last play, *The Road to the Sea*. He died in 2003.

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